EVANOFF PROVINCIAL PARK

PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN

March 2003

Approved by:

John Metcalfe
Regional Manager
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: March 18/03

Nancy Wilkin
Assistant Deputy Minister
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date:

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EVANOFF PROVINCIAL PARK
Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan

This 1,473 ha park is located about 121 km northeast of Prince George in high elevation, mountainous terrain just east of Pass Lake. Evanoff Park consists of very scenic subalpine bowls in the northwest and southeast, separated in the middle by Fang Mountain Ridge.

The park is situated in the Hart Ranges. Limestone and karst formations are found throughout the area, resulting in numerous caves, underground drainage systems and fossil occurrences. One of the key features leading to the establishment of Evanoff Park is the nationally significant cave system contained within the park.

Primary Role
The primary role of the park is to protect the nationally significant Fang Cave complex, which includes the ninth-longest cave (2,845 m) in Canada. Other caves included in the park are Tooth Decave and Window on the West.

Secondary Role
The secondary role of the park is to provide two distinctly different backcountry recreation opportunities. In the northeast part of the park, a very steep route (Fang Trail) leads to the cave entrances and an exceptionally scenic alpine bowl which contains several small alpine lakes, wet meadow complexes and limestone pinnacles and ridges. In the southwest, the Torpy Trail leads to another subalpine bowl surrounded by limestone ridges to the east and west. This 1.5 km trail, with an elevation of only 200 m, provides one of the easiest access trails to the alpine in the entire region. Both these areas have long been popular hiking destinations.

Tertiary Role
The tertiary role of the park is to provide snowmobiling and ski touring opportunities. The Hart Ranges generally have good snow conditions, and Evanoff Park is in an area that attracts backcountry ski touring and snowmobiling. The local snowmobile club and cross-country skiers have developed an agreement for winter use to minimize conflicts, which is supported by the Environmental Stewardship Division.

Known Management Issues	Response
Caving safety	Because the caves are accessible by a one hour hike, access management controls for the caves may be required in the future to address public safety issues.
Cave management strategy	A monitoring program may be undertaken in the future to assess level of recreational use and ensure use is not impacting the cave features.
Hunting, horse use and packing, snowmobiling, mechanized activities (mountain biking),	These activities were deferred at the Prince George LRMP to a future park planning process. In the interim, the following uses are proposed as acceptable:

motorized water activities.	• Hunting and commercial hunting guiding • Llama use south of Fang Mountain Ridge • Snowmobiling southeast of Fang Ridge (as indicated in the McGregor-Torpy Winter Recreation Area).
Access	Potential Ministry of Forests withdrawal from Upper Torpy Road maintenance, may reduce accessibility to the Torpy Lake Trail.
Backcountry management	• Install park boundary signs • Close park to open fires • Monitor backcountry impacts, especially around lake on Torpy Trail.

Zoning

Evanoff Provincial Park includes two zones:

- Natural Environment (protection of scenic values and provision of backcountry recreation opportunities in largely undisturbed natural environment) where snowmobiling will be permitted (807 hectares or 55% of the park).
- Special Feature to protect the cave complexes (666 hectares or 45% of the park).

CONSERVATION

Representation

- ecosection

Southern Hart Ranges (SHR). 19.54% of this ecosection is protected; Evanoff's contribution is minimal, contributing only 0.86% of the overall protected areas system representation of this ecosection.

- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant

ESSFwk2 – 10.86% protected. Evanoff's contribution is minimal, contributing only 0.49% of the overall protected areas system representation of this ecosystem unit.
ICHvk2 – 10.43% protected. Evanoff's contribution is minimal, contributing only 0.59% of the overall protected areas system representation of this ecosystem unit.

Special Feature

X Fang Cave – ninth longest cave in Canada.
Cave and karst topography

Rare/Endangered Values

Not assessed

Scientific/Research Opportunities

X Cave assessment for karst features

RECREATION

Representation:

- backcountry

X Fang Trail – 900m (3,000 feet) elevation gain, 6 km
Torpy Trail – 200 m (700 feet) elevation gain, 1.5 km

- destination

X Caving – nationally significant caving complex.

- travel corridor
- local recreation

X Caving, hiking, cross country skiing and snowmobiling.

Special Opportunities

Education/Interpretation Opportunities

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Representation

Not known

Special Feature

OTHER MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Other Designations		
Relationship to Other PAs	X	Erg, Close-to-the-Edge, Ptarmigan, Slim Creek, Sugarbowl Grizzly and West Twin are all located within close proximity to Evanoff.
Co-operative Management Arrangements		Area of interest by the Lheidli T'enneh Nation
Partnerships		
Vulnerability	X	Caves could be impacted through recreational use. The Conservation Risk Assessment Process identified 3 risk factors (shape, size and watershed integrity) for the park and rated them as moderately significant. Four stressors/threats were identified for the park: forest harvesting activity was rated as moderately significant; roadways, snowmachine and caving/climbing were all rated as low significance.
Relationship to Other Strategies		Established through the Prince George LRMP.

Area: 1,473 ha

Date of establishment: June 29, 2000

Zoning Map - Evanoff Provincial Park

Projection: Albers Equal Areas
Datum: NAD83

Natural Environment
Special Feature
Protected Area Boundary

0 1
km

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